



ALL ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS

Replacements for natural teeth and roots, dental implants are an alternative to dentures and bridges. Implants are “anchored” in the jaw, offering comfort and stability.

ADVANTAGES

- › Improve speech and chewing ability
- › Restore natural appearance
- › Permanent
- › 85–90% effective
- › Slow down bone loss

AM I A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR IMPLANTS?

To be an ideal candidate for implants, you must have:

- › good general health
- › healthy gums
- › sufficient bone structure
- › personal commitment to oral hygiene

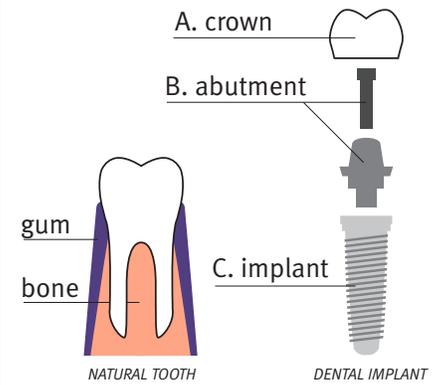
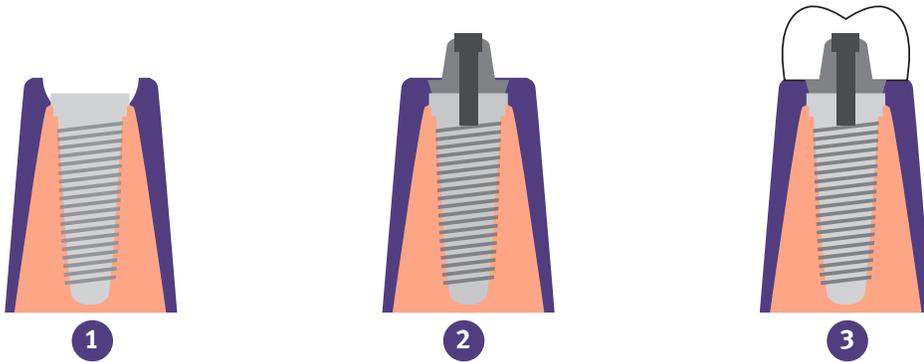
Implants might not be the right option if you:

- › smoke
- › clench or grind your teeth
- › have diabetes

DID YOU KNOW that 3 million Americans have dental implants?

And this number is growing — by half a million a year, according to the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?



Placement of dental implants involves a three-step process that can take several months.

- 1 First, the dentist surgically places the implant, without the replacement tooth, directly into the jawbone. The bone fuses to the metal, in a process called osseointegration. During this time, you might wear a denture or bridge.
- 2 Next, as soon as the bone has adjusted to the implant, the abutment (the connecting piece) is added.
- 3 Finally, once the gum has healed around the abutment, the crown is attached. Talk to your dentist to find out if implants might be a good choice for you. If your bone has receded, a successful bone graft may first be required.

ARE IMPLANTS WORTH THE COST?

Although the cost of implants is significantly higher than that of dentures and bridges, they come with some major advantages:

- › With proper care, implants can last a lifetime, making them a worthwhile investment.
- › Unlike removable prosthetics like dentures, implants are a permanent fixture in your mouth, so you won't ever be caught without your teeth.
- › Because they're permanent, implants won't slip during chewing or speaking, giving you the look, feel and function of real teeth.

To find out how much implants will cost you, ask your dentist for a pre-treatment estimate. This free service lets you know up front how much your Delta Dental plan will pay and how much your out-of-pocket expense will be.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first dental implant was performed in Sweden in 1965. It was a major success, giving the patient a set of teeth that lasted for the rest of his life.



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